CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. In a data processing system having a central processing unit, memory, at least one user output device, and a user input device, a method for retrieving and presenting stored documents on a plurality of output devices each requiring different presentation parameters, comprising the steps of:

parsing a document into one or more objects;

parsing each object into one or more units;

storing said units according to processing requirements of each said unit;

classifying connected presentation devices;

receiving a request from a said presentation device;

assembling said document from said stored units; and

sending said assembled document to said presentation device.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein parsing each object into one or more units, further comprises:

determining type of each said unit.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein storing said units according to processing requirements of each said unit, further comprise:

storing said units, requiring less processing to convert to device-dependent format, in device-independent format; and

storing said units, requiring more processing to convert to device-dependent format, in device-dependent format.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein classifying said

connected presentation devices, further comprise:

determining acceptable document formats for said connected presentation devices; and

classifying said devices according to device-dependent characteristics

5. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a request from said connected presentation device for said target document, further comprises:

determining whether said peripheral device is known or unknown.

6. In a data processing system having a central processing unit, memory, at least one user output device, and a user input device, a system for retrieving and presenting stored documents on a plurality of output devices each requiring different presentation parameters, comprising:

logic means for parsing a document into one or more objects;

means for parsing each object into one or more units;

storage means for storing said units according to processing requirements of each said unit;

discrimination means for classifying connected presentation devices;

receiving means for receiving a request from said presentation devices;

logic means for assembling said document from said stored units; and

transmitting means for sending said assembled document to said presentation device.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein logic means for parsing each object into one or more units, further comprises:

comparison means for determining type of each said unit.

8. The system of claim 6, wherein storage means for storing said units according to processing requirements of each said unit, further comprise:

means for storing said units, requiring less processing to convert to device-dependent format, in device-independent format; and

means for storing said units, requiring more processing

to convert to device-dependent format, in device-dependent format.

9. The system of claim 6, wherein discrimination means for classifying said connected presentation devices, further comprise:

comparison means for determining acceptable document formats for said connected presentation devices; and

classification means for classifying said devices according to device-dependent characteristics

10. The system of claim 6, wherein receiving means for receiving a request from said connected presentation device for said target document, further comprises:

means for determining whether said peripheral device is known or unknown.

11. In a data processing system having a central processing unit, memory, at least one user output device, and a user input device, a computer program product within a computer readable medium having instructions for retrieving and presenting stored documents on a plurality of output devices each requiring different presentation parameters, comprising the steps of:

instructions within said computer program product for parsing a document into one or more objects; and

instructions within said computer program product for parsing each object into one or more units;

instructions within said computer program product for storing said units according to processing requirements of each said unit;

instructions within said computer program product for classifying connected presentation devices;

instructions within said computer program product for receiving a request from a said presentation device;

instructions within said computer program product for assembling said document from said stored units; and

instructions within said computer program product for sending said assembled document to said presentation device.

12. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein instructions for parsing each object into one or more units, further comprises:

instructions within said computer program product for determining type of each said unit.

13. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein instructions for storing said units according to processing requirements of each said unit, further comprises:

instructions within said computer program product for

storing said units, requiring less processing to convert to device-dependent format , in device-independent format; and

instructions within said computer program product for storing said units, requiring more processing to convert to device-dependent format, in device-dependent format.

14. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein instructions for classifying said connected presentation devices, further comprises:

instructions within said computer program product for determining acceptable document formats for said connected presentation devices; and

instructions within said computer program product for classifying said devices according to device-dependent characteristics.

15. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein instructions for receiving a request from said connected presentation device for said target document, further comprises:

instructions within said computer program product for determining whether said peripheral device is known or unknown.